

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A photovoltaic cell comprising:
a photovoltaic element plate; and
an insulating member provided on the photovoltaic element plate;
a coating film provided on an area of the photovoltaic element plate on
which the insulating member is not provided; and
an electrode formed on the insulating member,
wherein the photovoltaic element has an electrode portion having insulating
member has a thickness larger than the average thickness of the coating film, and
a thickness of a part of the coating film which is in contact with the
electrode portion insulating member is smaller than the average thickness of the coating
film; and
the coating film does not cover a top surface of the electrode portion.
2. (Original) The photovoltaic cell according to Claim 1, wherein the
coating film comprises a thermosetting coating material, and the thermosetting coating
material before curing has a viscosity in the range of from 1 to 50 mPa s.
3. (Original) The photovoltaic cell according to Claim 1, wherein the
average thickness of the coating film is 0.5 mm or less.

4. (Original) The photovoltaic cell according to Claim 1, wherein the coating film comprises a coating material containing at least an acrylic resin.

5. (Currently Amended) The photovoltaic cell according to Claim 1, wherein the coating film comprises a coating material, and the electrode portion comprises an insulating member and a conductive foil body.

6. (Original) The photovoltaic cell according to Claim 5, wherein the insulating member comprises an acrylic adhesive layer.

7. (Original) The photovoltaic cell according to Claim 5, wherein a part of the insulating member located at a position higher than the average thickness of the coating film has a low wettability to the coating material.

8. (Currently Amended) The photovoltaic cell according to Claim 7, wherein a side surface of the insulating member comprises an agent causing the side surface of the insulating member to have a low wettability to the coating material, the side surface of the insulating member being located at a side of the electrode portion insulating member which is in contact with the coating film.

9. (Original) The photovoltaic cell according to Claim 8, wherein the insulating member includes a base plate comprising the agent.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a photovoltaic cell having a photovoltaic element plate, an insulating member provided on the photovoltaic element plate, and a coating film provided on an area of the photovoltaic element plate on which the insulating member is not provided, and an electrode formed on the insulating member, comprising:

a step of forming the coating film on a light receiving face of the photovoltaic element plate by applying the coating film thereon; and

a step of heating the coating film for curing while a part thereof in contact with an electrode portion of the photovoltaic element the insulating member is being maintained such that it has a thickness smaller than the average thickness of the coating film[[],]

wherein the coating film does not cover a top surface of the electrode portion.

11. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing a photovoltaic cell according to Claim 10, further comprising a step of coating a side surface of [[an]] the insulating member of the electrode portion with an agent which causes the side surface of the insulating member to have a low wettability to a coating material contained in the coating film, wherein the side surface of the insulating member is located at a side of the electrode portion insulating member which is brought into contact with the coating film.

12. (Original) The method for manufacturing a photovoltaic cell according

to Claim 11, wherein the agent is a release agent contained in a mixed solution at a concentration of 0.1 to 30 percent.

13. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing a photovoltaic cell according to Claim 10, further comprising a step of forming [[an]] the insulating member of the electrode portion by slitting a tape comprising a base plate, wherein the base plate and a side surface of the insulating member comprise an agent which causes the side surface of the insulating member to have a low wettability to a coating material contained in the coating film, and wherein the side surface of the insulating member is located at a side of the electrode portion insulating member which is brought into contact with the coating film.

14. (Currently Amended) A photovoltaic cell comprising:
a photovoltaic element having a photovoltaic element plate; and
an insulating member provided on the photovoltaic element plate;
a coating film provided on an area of the photovoltaic element plate on
which the insulating member is not provided; and
an electrode formed on the insulating member,
wherein the photovoltaic element has an electrode portion having insulating
member has a thickness larger than the average thickness of the coating film,
a thickness of a part of the coating film which is in contact with the electrode portion insulating member is equal to or smaller than the average thickness of the coating film,

the electrode portion is provided outside of a power generation region of the photovoltaic element,

the photovoltaic element has collector electrodes on the power generation region, and

the coating film covers the power generation region and the collector electrodes.